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security risks, but unfortunately the mercantile marine is to a large extent manned by foreigners, who would not be available for service in the navy. Naturally the shipowner is governed by the exigency of competition and the law of supply and demand, and he selects the cheapest material for his crews that will serve his purpose. To remedy this it has been proposed that some measure of protection should be accorded to the British sailor, that a British ship should not be allowed to carry more than a certain proportion of foreigners amongst her crew, and that on such foreigners are carried a tax should be levied; also that every ship, whether steam or sail, should be required to carry a certain number of apprentices. On the other hand it is urged that this would further handicap the British shipowner, who already has to compete with his foreign rivals at a disadvantage owing to loadline and other regulations from which the foreigner is exempt. If the country requires an additional supply of seamen for defensive purposes the country, it is contended, should bear the cost of training them and not throw the burden on to the private shipowner. Whatever differences of opinion may be entertained on that point, however, there is one point on which all parties may agree, and that is that better inducements should be offered to boys to join the navy and that more training ships should be established, not only in the home ports, but also in the colonies. By this means the supply of men might be materially increased. But whatever may be done in that direction the condition of the mercantile marine as a reserve upon which to draw in times of necessity will always remain a matter of supreme importance to the country. If the local branch of the Navy League can offer any solution of the difficult problem the question presents it will render a valuable public service.

The Nanjing Army Administration has issued a very stringent notice prohibiting foreigners visiting the Weasung Forts.

His Lordship the Chief Justice will deliver his judgment in the case of Gubby and others v. Belliss at ten o'clock this morning.

Mr. Charles Dowdall has, with the approval of H.M. Minister at Peking, been appointed Acting Consul-Advoct at Shanghai.

A Volunteer church parade service will be held at St. John's Cathedral on Sunday, the 27th inst. Fall in at head-quarters at 10.15 a.m.

It is reported that the Russians have large stores of Welsh coal at Vladivostok. One estimate is that the total quantity is \$50,000 tons.

Inspectors Butlin, Hennessy, Mann, and Hall, and Sergeant Peard retired from the Police Force next month on pension. The five officers are amongst the oldest in the Force.

The N. C. Daily News loans that to facilitate communication with Chusan, it is contemplated by a telegraphic cable from Chusan, at the mouth of the Hangchow river to Ninghai, the chief port in the Chinese islands.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nelson Fund in Hongkong has written with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals—Tai Shing Paper Manufacturing Co., Limited, \$25.

At Yokohama, on the 27th January, during the dinner at the German Club in honour of the Kaiser's birthday, one of the company, Mr. Brewell, slipped and fell on the floor, breaking his leg in two places. He was taken to the hospital.

H.I.S. Highness, who arrived at Shanghai from Tientsin on the 9th February, has gone into Tsanakaoo Dock for overhaul, having recently been ashore near Ningpo. A naval post-mortem was held at the Chinese Consulate last night, and it was agreed to enquire into the stranding of H.B.M.'s *Albatross* at the Swan Sisters. The commander, Captain Maclellan, was severely reprimanded, while the navigating lieutenant was also reprimanded.


Shortly after nine o'clock last night a fire broke out on the premises of the Eastern Clock Manufacturing Company, Block Lane. The cause of the outbreak is not known. It is stated that the rear of the premises, was discovered by a Chinaman, whose shouts of "fire" were heard in No. 7 Police Station. A dispatch box was at once got up and sent to the station, where the alarm was given, and in a very short time Deputy Superintendent Howe and a number of men were soon on the spot. The fire was fortunately not serious and it was extinguished soon after the arrival of the fire engine. The damage was probably not very great.

The future movements of H.B.M.'s *Albatross* are still quite unknown in naval circles. Great interest has been shown in the vessel since its departure, but her departure was necessarily delayed and it is apt at all certain, where she will go to sea under the command of the rating of the English. The *Queen's Road* sailors who threw away their curbs in the Queen's Road on Saturday night were doubtless labouring under a misapprehension, and they were not intended to be prepared on the *Tamara* for the reception of allies. It is stated in official circles that the curbs were ordered out of the ship so as to facilitate thorough cleansing of the vessel, which had been in previous months on a cruise would not have been adopted, but as there is a possibility of the ship being detained in Eastern waters for some considerable time it was thought inadvisable to allow a large quantity of lumber on board.

A Seoul letter to the *Ozaka Asahi* states that a rumour is current there that Korea is likely to be united forever by Japan, Great Britain, and Russia combined. In the event of the conference being arranged, Russia will withdraw her military instructions now in Seoul, and Japan will also withdraw her troops from the peninsula. Korea will be placed under the Korean army will be entrusted to a civilised country outside the conference. This will entail a change in the organisation of the army, and in provision against the Japanese will be formed embracing representatives of the various factions. The question of the relations between Mr. Brown and Mr. Alexeeff will be considered at the present time. Negotiations upon financial aid should be in progress, and the Russian Minister appears to have instructions from St. Petersburg to support such an arrangement.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

At the Police Court yesterday the Magistrate heard a case in which Messrs. Leighton and Davis were summoned for neglecting to have four horses in Western District riding school licensed before proceeding to ride. Defendants were fined \$40. Yesterday Dr. Clark and Mr. McCallum, who supported the prosecution, were willing to withdraw the case providing the defendants gave evidence that the horse had without any loss of time, the contract for the work having been made before the summons was issued. Mr. P. Matfield who represented the defence, said that the defendant had been forced with the carrying out of the work. The notices from the Sanitary Board did not reach him and the tenders for the work were on his desk when he received the notices. He said that he had no intention of evading responsibility. The Magistrate said he was satisfied there had been neglect of the sanitary duties, and it was of course necessary that the case should be properly carried out. The other day he mentioned that there was a disposition on the part of landlords to shirk their responsibility, but he was glad to hear that there was a tendency to do otherwise. The fine of \$40 would be reduced to one of \$20.

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This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor discoloration and faint smudges, characteristic of old paper. The left edge of the page is bound, showing the stitching and the inner cover material. There is no text or other markings on the page.

[The page contains faint, illegible markings and noise.]

